

## AHP HOA COVENANTS FOR MAINTENANCE-- ARTICLE 7.1

7.1 Each owner shall keep all lots owned by him, and all improvements thereon, in good order and repair, including but not limited to, the seeding, watering, and mowing of all lawns, the pruning and cutting of all trees and shrubbery.

## Useful web sites about controlling weeds in your flower beds and shrubbery planting areas.

### **But first: Some Questions and Answers on Glyphosate and Round Up**

<https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/care/weeds-and-invasive-plants/not-all-roundup-is-glyphosate/>

<https://www.fda.gov/food/pesticides/questions-and-answers-glyphosate>

It doesn't take much reading to learn that Round Up has changed their formula and eliminated the use of glyphosate in their formula for homeowners. In fact, a check of the formulas for big box stores like Home Depot and Lowe's show no glyphosate in any of the weedkillers for sale.

So, if you are comfortable with the new formulations, you can easily use them to kill weeds AND the roots. They are remarkably effective.

If you are still hesitant to use commercial weed killers, there are various Roundup alternatives for controlling weeds. Ways to control weeds include using mulch, herbicidal soap, corn gluten, manual removal, or iron-based herbicides. Some organic herbicide brands can also help control weeds, but they are most effective when the weeds are newly sprouted.

Most home recipes for weed killer involve using vinegar, salt and dish soap. However, it is important to note that vinegar (acetic acid) needs to be used in concentrations above the 5% solution found in household vinegar. The ratio of ingredients for a homemade weed killer made with vinegar, salt, and dish soap is typically ½ gallon of 30% vinegar, ½ gallon of water, 1 cup of salt, and 1 tablespoon of dish soap mixed in a 1 gallon sprayer. You can also pour the mixture into a small spray bottle and spray it on weeds. Experts say that the mixture is most effective on warm, dry, sunny days especially when the weeds are actively growing/emerging.

An AHP HOA member gave the HOA permission to test the above formula on a weed choked gravel pathway in their yard and it worked extremely fast and was effective.

However, vinegar also does NOT kill the roots and will have to be reapplied more frequently than herbicides. Here are some helpful websites. Making your own mixture is very easy and inexpensive as well.

<https://www.bobvila.com/articles/best-weed-killer-for-flower-beds/>

<https://www.ars.usda.gov/news-events/news/research-news/2002/spray-weeds-with-vinegar/#:~:text=A%20bottle%20of%20household%20vinegar,this%20in%20about%20%20hours.>

### **Other ways to control weeds in planting beds**

Using a weed barrier is an extremely good idea and works very well if you buy a high-quality barrier and carefully install it.

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/ep523>

### **Weed Control Fabric 101: How to Choose the Best Weed Barrier Material for your Landscape**

<https://www.landscapediscount.com/Weed-Control-Fabric-101-s/2007.htm>

### **How to Use Mulch to Keep Weeds out**

<https://scotts.com/en-us/how-to/how-to-control-weeds-naturally-with-mulch.html>